POINT PAPER

ON

DOD/NASA INTERFACE

Following is an overview of the Space Policy Committee and the Program Review Board.

BACKGROUND

- The NSC Space Policy Committee is to provide overall national space policy recommendations for the compatible operation of the so-called military and civil oriented space programs. The Committee was established as a standing committee of the Under Secretaries Committee with the Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs acting as Chairman. The Assistant Secretary of Defense, International Security Affairs and the Director, National Reconnaissance Office are the DOD principals.

- The Program Review Board is to provide a reasonable management of technology and of acquired data between the so-called military and civil oriented space programs. The Board was established by agreement between the DOD, NASA and CIA. The Director of Defense Research and Engineering, the Deputy Administrator of NASA, the Director, National Reconnaissance Office and the Deputy Director of CIA for Science and Technology are the principals. The Board is supported by two working committees, one for technology oversight and one for data management oversight.

- The Space Policy Committee is expected to set a broad framework of philosophy so that the technically oriented Program Review Board can adjudicate problems.

- For the last several years there has been fragmented policy with regard to U.S. space operations. The State Department internally has been divided in its perception of the uses of space. The DOD has had difficulty in the past in bringing focus to space policy matters, especially the technical and policy interface.

- NASA has undertaken significant steps in both technology and operational fields to bring its programs closer to the military oriented reconnaissance activities.

[redacted]

- In our view, both the Policy Committee and the Program Review Board will serve to keep the NASA activities above board and reviewed in terms of their impact on the military programs.

THE SPACE POLICY COMMITTEE

- The Committee has had two working group meetings. The first meeting raised several issues. Principal among these were a desire by OMB to conduct a cost analysis of the civil versus military imaging programs and second a desire on the part of NSC to examine the prospect of a single national imaging system. The second meeting was held for the purpose of criticizing an outline which was promulgated by State and for assigning inputs to the various member agencies.

- The issues are extremely unfocused at this time. The working group chairman intends to distribute all the various inputs and receive personal comment on these prior to another working group meeting. The swing issue surfaced thus far is the so-called "fact of" issue. At this time, the United States Government does not acknowledge the satellite reconnaissance program openly. The Defense Department position is to retain the current policy, although it would be of some benefit to the civil agencies to reverse the policy. The original thrusts of a cost study to examine a potential single imaging system have been downplayed. It remains to be seen how the issues sort themselves out.

- We expect no final conclusion to the initial study before the end of the year. However, the Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Sisco, desires a meeting of the principals soon.

PROGRAM REVIEW BOARD

- The Program Review Board principals have held one meeting although its committees have met frequently to address the [redacted] the findings and unresolved issues will be forwarded to the NSC for further study.

- Other items which will come before the Program Review Board include the problems associated with frequency management for satellite uplinks and downlinks and [redacted] Board will address the [redacted] in December.

- In our view, there needs to be a good interface between the politically oriented Space Policy Committee and the technically oriented Program Review Board. When policy is required the Program Review Board mechanism should be in a position to simplify the issues in a technical sense so that the Space Policy Committee can properly address the issue.